

**Brookline Tree Planting Committee (TPC)**  
**Minutes – Feb. 19, 2009**

**Attending:** Hugh Mattison (Chairman), Margie Greville, Tom Brady (Tree Warden)

**Natural Gas Leakage** - Tom reported that discussions have started with Gas Safety, Inc. (GSI) and presented a report Natural Gas Leak Tree Survey 2007-2008. The report described the methodology used on “public ways to determine and document natural gas leaks that have damaged or threaten to damage the Municipality’s public shade trees.”

“The audit surveyed 518 trees and determined that 112 trees had no ascertainable damage and 406 trees were determined to be damaged by the history of gas exposure. The total appraised value of the damaged trees was \$2,079,108 and the appraised loss of these damaged trees was \$849,210 with an additional mitigation cost (pruning, fertilization, removal and replacement costs) of \$220,321 for a total damage estimate of \$1,069,531.”

GSI will initiate a discussion with National Grid. A total of eight communities are involved, with Brookline serving as the lead community. The Brookline agreement with GSI calls for 40% of any recovery to be paid to GSI. Recovery funds will be dedicated to street trees. This meeting should occur within 2-3 months.

**Spring 2009 planting** – Tom asked the TPC to identify planting locations. A total of 200 trees may be available this year. Hugh mentioned Green St. and Margie suggested streets leading to parks as potential locations. Tom will ask Peter Ditto for a list of sidewalks to be rebuilt this year. Hugh will send emails to Town Meeting Members and to the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance requesting people to send locations. He will also try to identify other likely locations.

**TPC Membership -**

Appointment of Matt Alvarado to TPC – Tom will check with Rich Kelliher on the status.

**George Barlow**, longtime Town Arborist, will retire after 40 years. He is to receive the Environmentalist of the Year award from the Conservation Commission on Tuesday night, Feb. 24.

**Route 9 trees** - Mass. Highway Dept. has asked Brookline to assume responsibility for all trees on Route 9, including maintenance of 84 new trees. Tom pointed out that maintenance and pruning this will be a sizable liability for Brookline, and not likely acceptable.

**Asian long-horned beetle** - Tom reported that there has been no sign of the Asian long-horned beetle in Brookline. However, in a 2.2 square mile area around Worcester, 23-25,000 trees are planned to be removed. If Brookline experienced this level of severity, it would be equivalent to 50,000 trees. Brookline has about 11,000 street trees.

Prepared by  
Hugh Mattison  
February 22, 2009